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The Common Cause

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All MSS. and letters relating thereto should be addressed to the Editor, The Common Cause, *Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1. Telephone: Museum 2702.]*

Notes and News.

The N.U.W.S.S. and the General Election.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has now announced its policy for the General Election. The Union will support selected women candidates, adopted by party organisations, or standing as independent candidates. It will, of course, demand that these candidates should not only accept but vigorously forward the N.U.W.S.S. programme. In this we do not imagine that there will be much difficulty, for the reforms which our Union has adopted as its platform are those which are strongly desired by progressive women of every party. It is hardly necessary to remind our readers that they include the economic equality of women with men; the equal moral standard, and the immediate removal from the statute book of laws that do not recognise it; improvement in the status of married women; equal guardianship of children; state provision for widows; enforcement of maintenance orders for wives; separate taxation of married women and equal opportunities for women in the service of the State, and in every profession and trade. The N.U.W.S.S. also demands the removal of the age limitation, and of the other limitations which stand in the way of women voting on the same terms as men.

The N.U.W.S.S. Candidates.

We publish on page 376 a list of the women candidates who are understood to be standing. There will probably be many more. Constituencies and candidates are forced by the circumstances and the time to make up their minds in a hurry. It is possible, therefore, that there will be some fluctuation, and some disappointments. Among the names that have been announced are those of some distinguished members of the N.U.W.S.S. itself. Their candidature is not in all cases absolutely decided on, but we earnestly hope that they will make up their minds to come forward. The foundations of reconstruction are being laid in a hurry, but they will certainly be very unsafe if they do not include women Members of Parliament, and the exceptional difficulties of the present election ought not to prevent all women who have the future of their country at heart from making an earnest effort to bring this about.

Women M.P.'s.

The Bill making women eligible to the House of Commons became law in the House of Lords last week. An Amendment moved by Lord Haldane to enable peeresses in their own right to stand and vote in the Second Chamber was rejected by the House of Lords by thirty-three votes to fourteen, after the Government had suggested that the object of the proposal would be more satisfactorily attained by a separate Bill dealing with the whole constitutional machinery.

The Wages Bill.

The second reading of the Regulation of Wages Bill was agreed to by the House of Commons on November 18th. The object of the Bill is to provide that during a period of six months, while industries are turning from war-time production to peace-time production, the present level of wages shall be maintained. Immediate legislation is necessary because the productions of the Munitions of War Act will cease to be operative as soon as the manufacture of munitions ceases, and there is no immediate prospect of the cost of living being reduced. In regard to men, the changes in wages which have taken place during the war cover all the industries concerned: but this is not the case with regard to women, and the Government recognises that it is important that they should be protected. We understand that in the place of the Committee of Production, there are to be Interim Arbitration Tribunals, consisting of employers and work-peoples' representatives, with independent chairmen. It is stated that "where wages are concerned, women will be represented." This seems to be a step in the right direction. We await with great interest further information as to the composition of the Tribunals and their work.

Shall Peace Bring us Starvation?

In our leading article this week we deal with the problem of the demobilised women workers, and especially with the munition workers' demand for consideration. This demand was upheld on Tuesday by a procession of between five and six thousand women through Whitehall. Most of these women were munition workers from Woolwich Arsenal, who had already received notice to quit; the rest came from other munition factories in London and in the suburbs. Sir Stephenson Kent, Head of the Demobilisation Department, and Sir Thomas Munro received Miss Macarthur and twenty shop stewards from the Arsenal, while the other women marched to Kingsway Hall to await results. Their demand was for a living wage while working, and for an adequate maintenance allowance on discharge. They urged that the promise of one pound per week while unemployed should be raised to thirty shillings, and that a definite date should be fixed for it to begin. They also asked for increased pensions for soldiers and an increased allowance for soldiers' widows so that these might not compete with them. They were informed that the out-of-work donation scheme would come into operation on Monday next, and that their whole case would be sent to the higher authorities for further consideration. How urgent it is that this consideration should not be delayed, we have already pointed out in our leading article.

Mrs. Fawcett and Birmingham University.

The principal of the University of Birmingham, at the installation of the new Chancellor, Lord Robert Cecil, introduced Mrs. Fawcett, on whom an Honorary degree was conferred, in the following terms:—"The work of women throughout the war has been splendid. Of every grade and station they have taken up men's burdens; and whether amid the dangers of shell manufacture, or the hardships of street locomotion, or the complexities of commercial life, they have shown not only spirit and endurance, but an ability and adaptiveness which surpassed ordinary expectation. To such citizens full political responsibility could no longer be denied. To-day I am empowered to present for the Degree of Doctor of Laws a woman of scholarly attainments who has devoted her life to championship of the women's cause in all honourable, sane, and wholesome ways. We congratulate her on having lived to see the fruit of her labours and those of many predecessors. Among the names of its woman heroes who have striven in unselfish causes—names such as Mary Wollstonecraft, Florence Nightingale, Octavia Hill and others—posterity will inscribe the name of Millicent Garrett Fawcett."

WHAT OF THE WOMEN NOW?

HAS the Government got a policy about the women workers? If so, when are we going to hear about it?

Day after day goes by, and more and more munition workers are given notice, or are unofficially informed that it would be well to seek their discharge; but no hint is given by the Government as to what is to become of them. Important and lengthy statements are made by Ministers but the word "woman" is hardly mentioned in them. If it does occur, it is accompanied by a pious hope that the women who have served their country in the time of public emergency will now be glad to return to their homes. We can remember when Ministers' speeches had a different tenor. There was a time, not so very long ago, when it was hardly possible for a public man to open his lips without referring to the importance of women's work in saving the country. Mr. Lloyd George himself, announcing that we had won the war, in days when most of us were not quite so sure of that happy fact as we are now, said: "without the women we could not have done it." But what of the women now? Since the armistice was signed, one public man only has given an important place to women in an important public utterance, and that is the King. His Majesty, in voicing his own thanks and those of the nation to his sailors, soldiers and airmen, included the women: so far His Majesty stands alone.

It might conceivably be thought that this silence was accidental, but for one ominous sign. In the dark days from which we are now emerging, the making of munitions of various kinds had grown to be the most important women's trade in the country; thousands and thousands of women have been called out of their homes to take part in it. According to the united testimony of the Government officials, from the Prime Minister downwards, of employers, fellow workmen, the press and the man in the street, these women have worked truly and well. They have worked for long months, one might almost say for years, without holidays of any kind. Many of them have done work which it was not thought possible that a woman could do; many of them have to a greater or less extent sacrificed domestic ties; many of them have taken great responsibility, nearly all of them have at times worked unconscionable hours and undergone great physical and mental stress. They have been urged to do it, they have been told again and again that unless they put forth their utmost strength the country would be lost, and they have responded bravely and cheerfully; it may truly be said that next to the fighting men these women have saved the State. The position in regard to them is now undeniably difficult. Their industry is a war industry; it will come to an end when war is no more, and much of it must cease with the cessation of hostilities. The Government has, moreover, pledged itself to the men's Trade Unions that soldiers who have left their trade in order to fight for the country shall find their places open for them when they come back. The women realise this; they have no desire to oust the men, they do not wish that any pledge should be broken. But they too have a case to be considered: it is not always easy for them to return to their old occupations, many of which have come to an end during the war; it is not possible for them to live on their old sweated wages when prices are at war altitudes. It is not possible for them to be content with old bad conditions when they know that the new freedom for which they have worked and the men have fought has dawned for the world. Next to the demobilisation of soldiers, the demobilisation of munition workers is the most important and difficult domestic problem with which the Government has to deal. It was therefore with mingled relief and anxiety that we heard about a week ago that the Ministry of Munitions had appointed a Demobilisation Board. We not unreasonably hoped that this Board would have included a large proportion of women members, representing different groups of women, who are profoundly interested in this matter; at the very least we hoped that it would have included those few names of well-known women whom the Government has at last learned to know. This would not have satisfied us, but it would have at least have been something; it would have shown that the Ministry of Munitions does remember that there *are* women. But apparently it does not; at any rate there is not a single woman's name on the Board.

Are we to take this as symptomatic? Does the Government propose to deal with women munition workers without consulting women, and is it going to follow the same path in dealing with women clerks, women transport workers, and all the other women who may have to be demobilised sooner or later, and who, so far, are only being helped by private effort?

If so, we have a warning to give to those who have our future in their hands, and it is of immense gravity. Now that the danger of foreign aggression has been met and overcome, there are, we believe, two chief perils threatening the country, and each of these may be enormously increased or diminished by the policy which the Government follows at this time in dealing with the women workers. The first is sheer exhaustion. For four years the energies of our race and of many other nations have been used for destruction; the whole world is now suffering from a shortage of the necessaries of life. Great Britain with her dense population, her social inequalities, her immeasurable responsibilities is not the country which will suffer least. If she is not to perish, or to sink into a condition of material misery and weakness which we shrink from contemplating, all her energy must be thrown into production. We have had to work to defend her existence; we shall now have to work to maintain it. In such a condition of things can the Government really afford to discourage the labour of one of the most energetic sections of the community? Does it dare to tell the woman worker that she must go back into idleness, or into sweated industries or into unproductive luxury trades; does it dare to tell her that she is of no use? We need not enlarge here on the irreparable loss which must result if the women who have been employed on emergency work are allowed to drift away without any attempt on the part of the Government to form schemes for using their work: it must be evident to all. The life of our future population depends on the action taken now.

But there is a danger greater even than that of exhaustion and the slow death that comes from it, and that is the danger of civil strife. Half Europe is now in revolution. In many countries there has already been bloodshed, and some are plunged into anarchy. We firmly believe that these things will not happen in England where political freedom has been so long established, and where the people have always shown a political sense and a hatred of violence which we hold to be beyond compare. But we dare not say that they *cannot* happen. If we are to avert them, it must be by the wisdom of our rulers as well as by the good sense of our citizens. At this moment we cannot but ask our rulers whether it is wise to cast the women workers aside without even appearing to realise that they are a problem? There is nothing so dangerous as waste energy, and no division of interest so much to be feared as one between the two halves of humanity. International antagonism is bad, class antagonism is worse, but sex antagonism is worst of all. There is no sex war at present, we do not believe that there will be any, but we warn our rulers that any heedlessness or lack of courage at this grave moment may be a step in that direction. With all the earnestness in our power, we urge them to take thought for the future of the women workers, and *to consult women* as to their organisation, and to do it NOW.

National Union Societies and the General Election.

The doubt that existed until a few weeks ago as to whether women would be rendered eligible for Parliament in time for the General Election, and the suddenness with which the election has been sprung upon the country has made it improbable that there will be women candidates in any but a very few constituencies. It is usually only the forlorn hopes that are left unsettled until the last moment and few women can afford to contest a hopeless seat. We hope that some of our members will be able to offer themselves to help women candidates at a distance from their homes, but for the majority this is not possible. The task that lies before our societies during the next few weeks is none the less heavy. On them lies the responsibility of seeing that women's questions and especially the reforms on the programme of the Union are brought before every candidate in the country, not merely formally, through means of a single letter or deputation from the Suffrage Society, but through his women constituents. There are several ways in which this may be effectively done. One of these is to organize a really representative deputation, in which all the women's organisations of the town should take part. In many places these organisations have already been brought together by the effort to start a Women Citizens' Association, and it should be easy to convene them again for the purpose of settling on a list of questions which should be put to the candidate, and of adopting a common method of approaching him. The leaflet containing the reforms on the N.U.W.S.S. programme should be circulated to the societies beforehand, with a view to seeing how many of them receive general support. Opinion on women's questions has advanced so rapidly lately, at least among women themselves, that I believe it will be found that in the more progressive towns, at any rate, the "greatest common measure" of support for the feminist reforms on our programme is a very large measure indeed. Where, however, this is not so, the reforms that are too "advanced" for the more timid societies should not be suppressed but brought before the candidate in the name of the more progressive bodies.

Another way of influencing public opinion is to call a large public meeting of women electors, which can be used for the double purpose of rousing women to the responsibility of using their vote and reminding them of the special issues affecting women on which their voices should be heard. Women should be urged to meet the importunity of canvassers by refusing to promise support to any candidate until satisfied as to his attitude on these questions. This does not of course necessarily mean that any one feminist issue or combination of issues should be made a "test" by the women voters. Many of these may reasonably feel that the attitude of the candidate on the great national and international questions of the day must be the preponderating factor in deciding whether he shall have their support. But now that the war is over and the long-looked-for period of reconstruction is actually upon us we are surely justified in demanding that those questions which vitally affect the welfare of women shall play their due part in determining the isue of the election. If the fabric of society is to be reconstituted, it must no longer be based on the exploitation of the woman worker, the serfdom of the married woman and the pauperisation of the widow. There are some women who have learnt the lesson of self-suppression so well, that any assertion of the claims of their own sex savours to them of selfishness. These should be reminded that the welfare of the child and the home is intimately bound up with the welfare of the woman. Girls who pass from the ill-paid drudgery of the factory to the unpaid drudgery of the home, who live on a continuous diet of tea, bread, and margarine, do not as a rule produce happy homes or healthy children. Married women or widows who are driven by the lack of proper provision to combine the work of a wage-earner with the work of a home-maker do not as a rule do either well. The working woman voter knows the facts better than her middle-class mentors. But she has not yet wakened to the full sense of the value of the vote as an instrument to remove the evils which press on her own life and the lives of her neighbours. It is we Suffragists who have put the tool in her hands. It is for us to teach her how to use it.

ELEANOR F. RATHBONE.

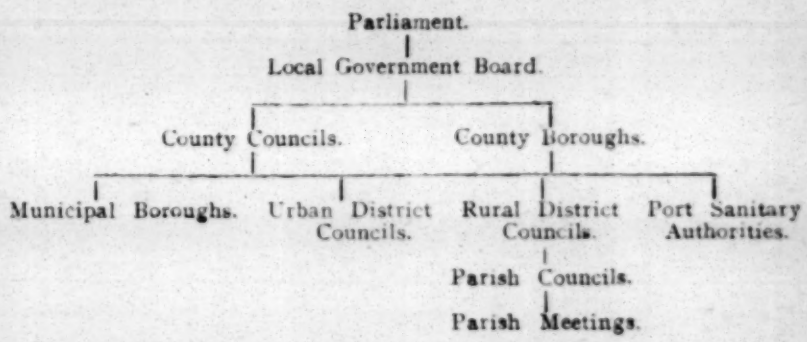
Some Notes on Local Government.

County Councils.

In 1888 an Act was passed establishing County Councils, which should exercise for each county the same administrative Government that had before only belonged to boroughs. The number of Councillors of a County Council varies greatly, from under thirty for Rutlandshire to over a hundred for London and the West Riding of Yorkshire. One-third of the County Councillors are Aldermen who hold office for six years, half retiring every third year; but the ordinary Councillors are only elected for three years, by men and women in the county who occupy property of an annual value not under £10. Women became eligible for election in 1907.

County Councils do their work through committees appointed by themselves, these committees, however, not being empowered to levy rates or raise loans. The County Councils exercise a kind of supervision over District and Parish Councils in their area, and settle both their boundaries and their disputes; they can hold local enquiries, compel defaulting lesser Councils to fulfil their duties, and delegate special powers to them if it thinks fit; but the County Councils have no authority whatever over County Boroughs within their area. The area under the control of a County Council does not always coincide with the historical boundaries of the Counties as marked on the map; for London is a separate County, so is the Isle of Ely. Each of the three Ridings of Yorkshire and the three divisions of Lincolnshire, together with the two divisions of Suffolk and Sussex, the Isle of Wight, and the ancient Soke of Peterborough has its own County Council and officers. The officers of a county are the Sheriff, the Lord Lieutenant, Coroner, the Justices and Clerk of the Peace, County Surveyor, Health Officers, &c. Till quite recently Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, and the Isle of Ely had but one Sheriff between them; it would be interesting if some Suffrage Society in that area would kindly state whether this sharing of the Sheriff still obtains.

County Boroughs (and the Cinque Ports) are independent of the supervision of County Councils and contribute little or nothing to the cost of county administration. There are seventy County Boroughs, all of them with a population of over 50,000 and they have practically all the powers of both a Municipal Borough and a County Council. The relationship of the various local governing bodies is best expressed by a genealogical table—



It will be seen that the powers and duties of County Councils are many and varied, and deal with town and country and seaboard conditions. Previously to 1888 their duties had been undertaken by numerous other bodies, such as the Board of Trade, the Board of Agriculture, Public Health Authorities, Highway Boards, and others.

It is obvious that if work so diverse and continuous is to be efficiently carried on the men and women appointed to do it will require to possess, not only a large share of public spirit and enthusiasm, but sufficient leisure and means to carry it out; the frequent attendance at meetings in various parts of the County involves considerable time and expense. The rather unfortunate result is that as a rule Labour is very inadequately represented on County Councils, the members being chiefly elected from among the landowning classes, retired military and professional men, and some of the more prosperous manufacturers and farmers. As yet, there are very few women sitting on County Councils, except in London, where also Labour has a better representation.

It has been mentioned that the multifarious duties of the Council are carried on by committees, and the chief of these are concerned with the following matters:—

Education, Finance, Public Works, Asylums, Public Health, and Housing, Old-Age and other Pensions, Diseases of Animals, Small Holdings, Midwives. In addition there is a standing Joint Committee, formed by the County Council and the County Justices, which controls the County police. The whole Council

Fully 100,000 have perished, the dead lay about the streets—starved to death. The people have endured orgies of cruelty and extreme misery from hunger, cold and terror.

"Lebanon a Graveyard"

MR. MARSHALL FOX. General Manager of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, cables from Jerusalem as follows:

"Government has called upon us for **immediate medical relief.** Have sent Hospital Equipment and personnel to Nablus and Nazareth, **counting on homeland's generous support.** Hospitals in good condition. Have visited Haifa, opened two schools and are investigating other needs. **Enormous scarcity of food and clothing** has led to immorality in bigger towns. Many widows and children totally unprovided for. Consequently demand for relief workshops. Information from Beyrout states that **two out of every three civilians are beggars. Lebanon is a graveyard.** Administrative Committee urgently needs men, transport, and financial guarantees."

We cannot let the survivors perish. Please go without something you want, and send us all you can. Cheques and postal orders to the Secretary,

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WOMEN WORKERS & THE FUTURE.—3.

Wives & Widows without Dependents.

If the woman worker has only herself to consider, having no one dependent upon her, a Scottish Widows Fund Deferred Annuity will enable her to make provision for her later years, when she no longer has the desire or ability to continue working.

Whereas an amount deposited in a Savings Bank would be used up in a comparatively few years after retirement, a similar amount invested in a Deferred Annuity would provide a fixed income after reaching a stipulated age, for every remaining year of her life, no matter to what age she might live.

All wage-earning women should write for a free copy of the interesting new booklet "The Future of Women Workers" explaining how, by means of small payments out of present earnings, a woman may make suitable provision for her future.

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must meet at least four times a year to receive the reports of the various Committees.

The Education Committee is the most important, including all duties of provision and maintenance of school buildings, appointment and payment of teachers, medical and dental inspection of school children, technical instruction and manual training, and the provision of special schools for mentally defective, blind, deaf, and epileptic children; and the Council may delegate full powers to this Committee except the raising of rates or borrowing money.

Women who are able to stand for County or Borough Councils should try to obtain some previous experience as a co-opted member of an Education Committee, where their influence in obtaining equality of educational advantages for girls as for boys, opportunities for women teachers, especially in isolated country schools, the organising of Care Committees, and other matters is most valuable.

It must be understood that while the County Council is the Education Authority for the county, the County Boroughs in the area are quite independent, as also are those Municipal Councils for towns with a population of over 10,000. Further, schools for pauper children are under the Local Government Board, and industrial schools, while they may be established and maintained by a County Council, are under the control of the Home Office. Though much improvement has taken place of late years in the management of industrial and reformatory schools, many of them are still apt to be dreary places, where children drag out monotonous lives, cut off from ordinary life, from home ties, from affection, from almost every kind of beauty, and from freedom for initiative and the glory of adventure. Moreover, they are usually children of a temperament and heredity needing very special care, and it is difficult to convince the official mind that suppression of evil qualities by rigid discipline and removal of opportunities for wrong-doing, is not of much avail unless accompanied by the loving development and encouragement of all wholesome and lovable qualities. As usual, such advantages (games, summer camps, &c.) as do fall to the share of these children are provided mainly for the boys.

The Finance Committee has frequently the control of nearly a million yearly, the larger proportion of which is raised by rates levied in the County, the remainder coming from Treasury grants, fines, tolls, and loans. The money is chiefly spent on education and public works. A résumé of the accounts is published each year and an estimate of the probable receipts and expenditure for the future year prepared. Any ratepayer may demand to inspect the accounts, and they are audited by a District Auditor appointed by the Local Government Board.

The County Works Committee supersedes the old Highways Board, and has control of all roads other than those under the care of Borough and District Councils; the latter bodies often receive grants for the repair or improvement of roads in their area, however, from the County Council, in which case the work done has to secure the approval of the County Surveyor. Much additional cost has been thrown on to highways authorities by the introduction of motor cars and heavy motor lorries, necessitating the strengthening of bridges, and tar-spraying. The County Works Committee may also have duties connected with canals, bridges and banks, protection of the coast from encroachment by the sea, prevention of the pollution of rivers and some other sewage matters outside the control of the lesser authorities.

But it is usually the General Purposes Committee which deals with and regulates canal traffic, railway extensions, water supply, and other such county matters; in addition to which this Committee has under its purview the administration of the Acts relating to weights and measures, inebriate homes, explosives, sale of poisons, and all arrangements for elections. In the larger rural counties a very important committee is the Small Holdings and Allotments Committee; the value of this work has been greatly emphasised by the war. It is very desirable, however, that whenever possible land granted for allotments should not be too far from the homes of the holders: otherwise the women regard them with disfavour because the husbands who have been out at work all day are then away all the evenings, Saturday afternoons, and Sundays also. Thus the "children never see their father all the summer," for very long walks or from fares militate against even the older ones accompanying them to the allotments. Small-holders can be tenants under the County Council at a fixed rate which cannot be increased, and not infrequently use their holdings as a stepping stone to acquiring small farms. This checks emigration and helps to keep the country people from flocking into towns.

This Committee needs the close co-operation of the Public

Health and Housing Committee, which, however, has not much power as regards housing except by calling to account apathetic and defaulting Rural District Councils. Yet it is obvious that there is no hope for the success of any "back to the land" movement, unless good, well-built, healthy housing accommodation is to take the place of the appalling hovels where many of the inhabitants of country districts are condemned to live. Roses and honeysuckle over white-washed porches and thatched eaves are very picturesque, but they do not atone for lack of bedrooms, absence of damp courses, windows and sewers, totally inadequate water supply and a porous roof. I remember noting one particularly beautiful and artistic cottage in ——shire, with a crippled woman sitting in the lavender-scented garden and a phthisical man milking cows in the shed beyond; while a mentally deficient child stared vacantly at the flowers and sunshine. The rooms within this picturesque rural home were low and dark, and few of the windows were made to open. The back door gave on to a tiny farm-yard which was just a swamp of liquid manure, and a filthy pool draining this yard lapped the walls of the cottage on one side. Yet from the road the little place looked ideally beautiful. Public Health and Housing Committees under County Councils have powers to deal with this kind of thing, but do not always use them, and the shortage of building materials and labour caused by the war will, it is to be feared, seriously hamper improvements for some years to come.

But women are urgently needed on all the Committees everywhere; the Asylums and Hospitals Committees need them, the supervision of the midwives, and infant protection duties of the Council want their help, the Pensions and Educatoin Committees afford them unlimited scope for usefulness. Nor are the special qualities of women unadapted to the control of expenditure, the inspection of slaughter houses, the administration of inebriate homes, or the protection of wild birds; in fact there seems no reason why women should not take their share in any department of life or work that is for the health, welfare, and happiness of the community.

Carol Ring.

Victorian Heroines.—VIII.

The Women of Meredith's Novels.

Those qualities which have most endeared George Meredith to his feminine readers are almost undoubtedly the power and sympathetic understanding with which he has delineated their sex, as well as his adherence to that sex's cause; and although the critic who appraises Meredith from a purely artistic standpoint instinctively recoils from any such piecemeal judgment with its possible imputation of a "purpose," he yet finds himself unable altogether to dispose of it. For it is impossible to deny that Meredith's characterisation of women is something new in the history of the novel, and also that he not only belongs, but consciously belongs, to the advance guard of the movement for women's freedom of which we are more and more reaping the benefit to-day.

In an age when pinched waist and crinoline successfully "camouflaged" the female form, and delicate health and a minute appetite were still considered the essential attributes of woman, George Meredith was drawing such forcible characters as Sandra Belloni, Diana, Aminta and Carinthia, and representing even his gentle Lucy Feverel as "plumping her exquisite proportions on bread and butter," and consuming her fair share of nine eggs at a honeymoon breakfast with her Richard! Again, with what severe irony he ridicules the melancholy religiosity and the false delicacy of a Constance Asper, with her air of the "high-born young lady abbess" who "did not like to be seen eating in public," and to whom Percy Dacier, having by sentimentality proved himself unworthy of Diana, falls a deserving victim. The first advice, then, that Meredith would give to a woman if she would come into her own is "Eat heartily. Be robust. Take your share of the good things of the earth;" advice whose sweet wholesomeness the emancipated woman has even yet not taken to heart, though maybe it is a trifle cruel to press it upon her in these rationed days.

Meredith designs first of all, therefore, to attack the refined attitude towards women, which he soon sees to be bound up with the entire social fabric of the mid-Victorian era, and which he comes to regard as very little else than a cloak for self-satisfaction, coarseness and oppression. "Dirty drab" and "rose-pink" as he designates the realistic and the sentimental methods of the novelist, are in his view mutually dependent, the

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one engendering the other, and as abhorrent to him in life and in the consideration of women as in art. His aim is rather to avoid both, to steer the middle course of sanity, to depict men, humanity, especially the feminine part of it, as neither better nor worse than it is, but to show it like the soul of Diana—"flecked heroine of Reality," "lamp of day" to Constance Asper's sickly "altar candle"—suffering its vicissitudes, subject to grave errors, "windbeaten, but ascending." And thus, Lady Esquart's plaint (in *Diana*) that the male novelist of the day always depicts his women as either "utter fools" or "horrid knaves" is really Meredith's own.

In *Sandra Belloni* he shows us the average male of the period, Wilfrid Pole, by some strange freak of nature enamoured of a clear natural emotional soul—the young Italian singer, Emilia; and the contrast between her, a graceful, robust plant with its roots well down in Mother Earth, and the straggling, shallow-rooted, insincere lover, is deliciously worked out. Love to Emilia means body and soul—no dallying to Wilfrid endless sweet hesitations, moods and delicacies. He is seeking a pretty ornament to his drawing-room, who will dispense tea in a suitable and decorous fashion, whereas she alarms him as much by the depth and poetry of her passion as by the downright fact-facing common-sense that goes with it.

Following on *Sandra Belloni* comes *Rhoda Fleming*, which depicts the vile consequences for women of the "wild oats" principle already attacked in *Richard Feverel*, and shows this principle as a mere extension of sentimentality, with its inevitable companion brutality, into law; and the law itself but the expression of man's lower instincts rather than the repression of them. Man will have his women pure and clean in order to satisfy his innate niceness—so admirably satirised in Willoughy Patterne—and consequently Dahlia Fleming, smirched by the act of one of these nice-minded men, falls under the penalty which is far worse than death. Far be it from us, however, to suggest that *Rhoda Fleming* partakes in any way of the nature of a tract. We have extracted the thesis; but what matters in the book is the spectacle of sullen and dusky Rhoda, fiercely chaste, personifying the condemnatory attitude of her whole sex, dominating and torturing that frail passion flower her sister; and the contrast between the emotional quality of Dahlia's love for Edward, and the cynicism and sentiment mingled in his for her. Wilfrid and Emilia again, but transposed into the key of an elemental tragedy, for Dahlia's suffering is such as to break her, whereas Emilia grows in wisdom and broadens out into the grandeur of Vittoria in the sequel of her story.

Leaving unconsidered Rose Jocelyn, "a fresh English morning in face and voice and person," Janet Ilchester, "firm as a rock and sweet as a flower upon it," unique Ottilia,—the one supersensual woman drawn by Meredith and credible at that—Cecilia and Renée, the two women Beauchamp loved, the one a "radiant landscape," the other a "peep through dewy woodland on to dark water," we will come at once to Clara Middleton, and on her, rather than on the robuster types of Meredith's womanhood we will dwell. For this reason: many other novelists since Meredith have given us the independent, ardent, capable and adorable woman—we find her all through Mr. Wells' work, in Mr. Bennett's *Lion's Share*, and in many other places, and to say truth, when she takes the whole world for her province and is too completely mistress of her affairs, we are occasionally wearied by her. There are no such crudities in Meredith. It was his fortune to be present at the dawn of our modern struggle for independence, and it is his crowning glory to have given us an exquisite portrayal of the mid-Victorian female, delicately nurtured, "not trained for strength," at grips with the monster serpent of male egoism, in the person of Willoughby Patterne.

Here is a woman of ordinary endowments, with just so much mental development as a civilisation which could produce Sir Willoughby would allow, and with just one spark of independence enabling her to wrestle bravely with a problem almost too hard for her to solve. She has not only the dead weight of Willoughby and her father and her plighted word against her, but the whole of her maidenly education, almost her every act, and certainly her every attempt to state her case brings the blush to her cheek. Yet she battles on and finally wins her way, only, it is true, to seek refuge in the arms of a better lover. Here a contrast with a twentieth century heroine may interest. Lady Harman's duel with her husband, to the intense surprise of Mr. Brumley, proceeds in all but its final stages entirely upon principle and without support from another love passion. Clara has no feminist principle, she is merely struggling with an impossible position, and she is sustained in her efforts quite early in the story by the consciousness of a growing tenderness for Vernon Whitford, to whom she yields herself later. The whole gives the impression of a fight but half won, a problem but half solved, and that, we submit, is exactly what Meredith intended it to be. He designed to show how hard such a situation was for a woman of Clara's education, and how in every respect the advantages lay with her opponent. He had pitted Emilia, in all ways an extraordinary woman, against Wilfrid Pole, but he built on sounder foundation when he chose Clara for the antagonist of Willoughby. For if the men are Willoughbys and Wilfrids, it follows as a natural sequence that the women must be Claras, unless they are lifeless Constance Aspers.

But though Clara is pre-eminently a girl of her period, her problem, except in its superficial aspect, is eternal, rooted in the very depths of human nature and recurring for every fledgeling of the human tribe making trial of its wings.

"It is the palpable and material of them still which they are tempted to flourish, wherewith to invite and allay pursuit; . . . when it should have been their task to set the soul above the fairest fortune, and the gift of strength in woman beyond ornamental whiteness. Are they not of a nature warriors like men?—men's mates to bear them heroes instead of puppets? But the devouring male Egoist prefers them as inanimate, overwrought, polished, pure metal, precious vessels, fresh from the hands of the artificer, for him to walk away with hugging, call all his own, drink of, and fill and drink of, and forget that he stole them."

As a deliciously lighthearted creature, seeking merry companionship rather than passion in love, Clara Middleton alone, as Meredith well knew, was fitted to cope with the Egoist. A woman of Diana's emotional power—witness her blunder with Dacier—might have been held captive, as Nataly Radnor (in *One of Our Conquerors*) is held captive, by the force of a personality against which her intellect rebels. But Clara, untroubled by the deeper feelings that move Willoughby, egotistical and sentimental though he is, sails gaily past all pitfalls. And her very physical charms are cunningly designed to bring out the contrast beween her tricksy and whimsical personality and the more impassioned women. Rhoda and Diana are dark and alluring, olive-complexioned; Dahlia is exquisitely fair; Clara's eyes are bright brown, and a lighter brown her hair, her colouring fresh pink and white—"a pure smooth white face, tenderly flushed in the cheeks"—she has "the mouth that smiles in repose" shaped almost like that of a trumpet-blowing eighteenth-century "amour," and "the look of a nymph that has gazed too long on the faun and unwittingly copied his lurking lip and long sliding eye."

But in the eulogy of Meredith's young heroines, we are in danger of forgetting the many types of elderly women, of high degree and low, which he has drawn. There are the bouncing Mrs. Berry, sane and well-balanced Lady Jocelyn, Rose Jocelyn's prim aunt, Mrs. "Mel," Lady Charlotte Chillingworth—a kindly portrait of the unmarried "femme de trente ans"—a dignified Rosamund Culling, witty Mrs. Mountstuart, and the "British matron" Lady Wathin—Diana's bugbear—not to mention Diana's dear friend Emmy Dunstane.

Or again, we have Lord Ormont's masculine and outrageous sister, the inscrutable Mrs. Lovell, and the dear little boyish widow Mrs. Finchley, Aminta's friend. Some of these are but thumbnail sketches, but all, with here and there an exception like Lady Busshe and Lady Culmer in the *Egoist*, are convincing and attractive. Indeed, from Lucy Feverel to Carinthia Fleetwood, never was there such a gallery of wonderful feminine portraits. By their open-air wit, their emotional quality and freedom from sentiment, their robust joy in life, the women of Meredith are akin to those of Shakespeare; and though he can boast no Lady Macbeth or Cleopatra, his Emilia, Diana and Clara take rank with Portia, Rosalind and Beatrice. Had he no other claim as a novelist—and he has so many—Meredith's portrayal of women alone would suffice to ensure his immortality.

D. W. Black.

Correspondence.

THE FUTURE OF THE N.U.W.S.S.

Madam,—My attempt to outline a programme of work for the N.U.W.S.S. seems to have caused some misunderstanding. One writer, for instance, assumes that I desire the disbanding of the societies. Nothing could be more contrary to my intended meaning; it is because I viewed with such apprehension the tendency to disintegration that I urged the opening of a campaign for the societies, and proposed citizen work if practicable, and in any case immediate practical work in the direction of getting women into Parliament, on Town Councils, Boards of Guardians, and the like. Miss Weddell, I gather, is satisfied with the position as long as the Executive goes ahead passing equality resolutions. I am not.

PELMANISM AND THE SILVER BADGE

By GEORGE HENRY.

IF it were within my power I would so order it that every Silver Badge issued to a discharged soldier would be accompanied by a free enrolment for a course of Pelmanism.

For Pelmanism is of the greatest import to the discharged soldier, and I am putting my views in regard to it upon record because I believe that the lessons to be learned from my own case may be of some service to many thousands of my comrades in the great Brotherhood of the Silver Badge.

It is just a year since the day when I cast aside khaki, consigned my tin of "Soldier's Friend" to oblivion, and feverishly arrayed myself in the most flamboyant clothes that my tailor and hosier could provide.

It is twelve months since the day I realised that, after nearly three years' service, I had become a free man—free to order my comings and goings as I listed—free from the tyranny of the bugle call: free to follow the dictates of my own will in everything, unhedged by restriction of prohibition.

And I was eager to burst upon a civilian world with all the theatrical *flaire* of a newly-discovered prima donna. In my innocence I thought that this same civilian world was waiting to lay bare its rewards before the sword of my wits.

But I was soon to discover that this view-point savoured of the unsophis ticated. It had not occured to me that the battle for a living was quite as strenuous as ever—indeed, had intensified during war-time—and that in going "over the top" in business or professional life one must still be equipped with the most effective mental munitions.

In my pre-war days I had gained a comfortable income in the practice of my profession. My mind had enjoyed ample exercise, and was always (if I may be forgiven the simile) at "concert pitch." And so I thought that, with a world teeming with new topics, ideas, and ideals, I could not fail to produce of my best and rebuild my shattered fortune.

I took a holiday, and, returning, came to my desk filled with a resolve to work as never I had worked before.

It was just there that I came down to earth, and the bubbles of my childlike faith bespattered themselves on the stones of reality.

One morning of fruitless futile scribbling showed me that nearly three years' service as a soldier had had its inevitable effect on mental progress.

That nimble will I had been so proud to possess positively would not be stimulated; that ability to analyse a subject and classify its components that had made my previous work clear and forceful had fled; that ease in the choice of the right word that had made work a recreation had taken a fancy for aviation and winged away.

And it was not just a matter of mood, for the inability to work persisted. In a week or two there came the realisation that it was a chronic state. The reason was not far to seek. For nearly three years my every day's activities had been planned ahead for me. Almost my every action had been governed by the decisions of my superior officers. Day and night, week in, week out, I had, and rightly so, surrendered myself to the mechanical will of the military machine. My thinking had been done for me. I had no reason to think for myself. Indeed, I soon learned that "thinking for oneself" was a short path to the pleasures of "pack drill."

All of which resulted in a brain lying fallow. Its functions had not been properly exercised—it was a great, obese brain, over-fed with facts and impressions, suffering from a species of mental indigestion, torpid and unresponsive to my will.

I had indeed come to a pretty pass! It was necessary for me to earn at least double as much as in pre-war days merely to provide the bread and butter of respectability. How was I to make provision for this—much less for the occasional jam that makes life livable—with my mind rusted, faculties blunted, and thinking-power to a great extent atrophied by disease.

Obsessed by this sort of query, little wonder that that sneaking little traitor, the Imp of Introspection, came upon the scene. I gave way to depression and doubt, and feared for my future. I began to think that I was going to be one of life's "washouts," and in the light of later learning I really think I did for a time belong to that peculiar species of humanity—until Pelmanism came to me.

Until Pelmanism came to me—by the prosaic path of a daily paper announcement, and the subsequent clipping of a coupon. Many thousands of Silver Badge men have hesitated over that same coupon. I wish I could make them realise to the full the import of it. For Pelmanism gave me what it has given many a thousand men and women. It gave me courage first of all. The first "little Grey Book" refreshed and stung my mind into activity, just as a plunge into a cold bath re-invigorates a tired body.

The Imp of Introspection and the legions of other mental devils who are his co-mates fled from my ken. I had no further use for them, and as "Grey Book" followed "Grey Book," and the fascinating exercise of Pelmanism unfolded their interest and charm, my mind began to bestir itself and throw off the shackles of its hibernation.

Pelmanism changed my whole outlook on life, gave me new interests, and made me THINK.

My mind began to function more speedily and easily. I found that I could collect my thoughts, concentrate on a subject, analyse and classify possibilities, and, finally, express myself without the hair-tearing and other temperamental performances which are popularly supposed to be the accompaniment of creative work. The upshot is that to-day my work is accomplished with ease, and I am never tired of reitering the fact that Pelmanism pays for itself a thousandfold.

So much for my personal experiences of Pelmanism. I have dealt with my own case at length because it is typical of thousands of others. I have lately had an opportunity of investigating the work of Pelmanism, and found that the register of the Pelman Institute teems with cases of students who at their introduction to the Course had suffered from the same mental "dry-rot" that was once my portion. I found, too, that among my brothers of the Silver Badge there is a great army of Pelmanists equipping itself for the stern struggle for a living that follows the laying down of the weapons of war. In many cases, officers who have appreciated the qualities of the men who served under them have paid for a course of Pelmanism for such men on their discharge from the Service.

And no person who can read can escape the wonderful tributes which are being paid to Pelmanism by distinguished men in every section of the Press.

Yes. Pelmanism is without doubt a vital necessity for the discharged soldier. For it is the men of the Silver Badge and their comrades who will return when peace comes—the youth of the world—upon whom the duty of rebuilding a new social order on the ashes of the old will devolve. It is the youth of the world who, when the peace comes, must so order things that the peace shall be kept and the earth cleansed of the corruption and loose thinking that played a great part in bringing about the mud-and-blood welter for the last four years. And to equip them for their labours in this respect, as well as for their own individual welfare I think that Pelmanism is of inestimable value.

* * * * * *

The Pelman Institute publishes a small book, "Mind and Memory," in which Pelmanism is fully explained and illustrated; and a supplement treating of "Pelmanism as an Intellectual and Social Factor." These two publications, together with a reprint of "Truth's" Report on the Pelman Institute and its work, will be sent, gratis and post free, to any reader of THE COMMON CAUSE *who addresses a postcard to the Pelman Institute, 177, Pelman House, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C. 1.*

All correspondence is confidential.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

The portrait of myself as a nervous reactionary is highly diverting; but whatever "sweeping and unfair allegations" I have been guilty of making, I never made one in the least resembling that of which Miss Weddell accuses me, as she will find if she will read my letter in The Common Cause of October 25th.

E. Common.

WOMEN'S PARTY.

Madam,—We, the undersigned representatives of Societies of the Consultative Committee of Women's Societies Working for Equal Citizenship, finding that the comprehensive title adopted by the body known as the Women's Party, of which Mrs. Pankhurst is the leader, has given rise to considerable confusion, desire to make it clear that the societies which we represent are in no way connected with this body.

We hope that you will allow space in your columns for the insertion of this letter.

(Signed) Fflorens Roch, Catholic Women's Suffrage Society.
E. L. Kelsall, Fabian Society (Women's Group).
Jane E. Strickland, Free Church League for Women's Suffrage.
Anne E. Corner, Voters' Council.
Florence A. Underwood, Women's Freedom League.
Margaret Jones, National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
K. F. Royds, Women's International League.

Reports, Notices, etc.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss Margaret Jones.
Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary).

Hon. Treasurers:
Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher and Miss Rosamond Smith.
Secretaries:
Miss Agnew, Mrs. Hubback (Information and Parliamentary).

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, Ox, London. Telephone—Museum 2668.

The Election Policy of the N.U.W.S.S.

"The N.U.W.S.S. has resolved to support the candidature of selected women candidates at the General Election. These candidates may be either Party candidates or Independents with strong local backing. The N.U.W.S.S. will support them by providing workers, appealing for funds, and in other ways, but their support will be conditional on the candidates adopting the N.U.W.S.S. Programme, and it will of course be subject to the restrictions of the Representation of the People Act, 1918.

"The election policy will be the same throughout the Union, and in any constituency where a woman is standing who has not been adopted by the N.U.W.S.S. the local society may if it wishes support her, provided that it has first obtained authority from the Headquarters of the Union."

As the date of the General Election made it necessary to decide on a policy immediately, the Executive Committee consulted the Societies by post and the above policy has been adopted.

Treasurer's Notes.

We are printing to-day a list of donations to our D.O.R.A. 40 D Protest Fund. It is quite remarkable how many of these donations were accompanied by letters expressing the wish of the donors that they had been very many times larger than they were. The list includes a donation of £50 from Miss Lily Coates, and a number of £10 and £5 donations—all very gratifying in view of the extreme urgency of the work to be done in connection with 40 D D.O.R.A.

	£	s.	d.
Dr. H. E. Thellserter Claremont	1	0	0
C. Boardman, Esq.	5	0	0
Mrs. R. Waley Cohen	1	1	0
Mrs. H. Clegg	5	0	0
Mrs. James Ward	1	1	0
Mrs. Nigel Buchanan		5	0
Mrs. A. W. Whitley		10	0
Miss E. R. Colman	1	1	0
Mrs. Boden	1	1	0
Miss Geraldine M. Clayton		5	0
Anonymous		5	0
Miss Violet Wallace	2	2	0
Miss E. D. Coats	5	0	0
Miss Agnes Catchpool	5	0	0
Rev. D and Mrs. Carpenter	1	0	0
Mrs. McCleverty		10	6
Mrs. Barton		2	6
Miss A. B. Browne		5	0
Miss E. C. Nacmore		5	0
Miss Edith C. Wilson	2	0	0
Miss French	1	1	0
Mrs. Gertrude Wild		2	0
Mrs. Marion Withiel	1	0	0
Miss Agnes H. Brook	5	0	0
Mrs. Wathen		10	0
Mrs. J. E. White		5	0
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Mrs. W. N. Brooks		2	6
Mrs. A. S. P. White Cooper	1	1	0
Dr. Charis Davies		10	0
Mrs. Gregory Rose-Innes	5	0	0
Miss H. M. Waithman		5	0
Miss Harriet Spicer	1	0	0
Miss H. Hollins	5	0	0
Mrs. Lane	1	0	0
Miss E. C. Kemp	2	0	0
Mrs. Wilson		10	0
Mrs. Deane		5	0
Mrs. Roger Clark	2	2	0
Mrs. T. R. Hughes	1	1	0
The Misses Williams		6	0
Mrs. Procter	1	0	0
Miss Irene P. Prestwich	2	2	0
Mrs. Jalland	1	0	0
Mrs. Homan	1	0	0
Miss Helen C. Greene	1	1	0
Hon. Lady Grey-Egerton	3	0	0
Mrs. B. Seebohm Rowntree	1	1	0
Mrs. Kenway	5	0	0
Mrs. Hermon	2	2	0
Mrs. Hugh Ronalds	2	2	0
Miss A. C. Prichard		2	0
Mrs. Annie J. Lane		10	0
Anonymous	3	0	0
Wellingborough W.S.S.		10	0
Mr. Robert Robinson	5	0	0
Miss Katharine Bathurst		2	6
Mrs. Whibley		5	0
Mrs. Cookson		10	0
Mrs. Jane Robinson		5	0
Mrs. Ellis Holland	10	0	0
Mrs. Harmer	2	2	0
Miss Brendam Fairbridge		5	0
Anonymous		10	0
Prof. and Mrs. Bethune Baker	5	0	0
Mrs. Peake		3	6
Miss Mary O. Kitching		5	0
Mrs. Alice Cowell	1	1	0
Mrs. Napier		5	0
Miss C. M. Forster		5	0
Miss Elizabeth G. Forster		2	6
Mrs. A. M. Overton	5	0	0
Mrs. C. S. Peel	1	0	0
Lady Robert Cecil		10	0
Miss Macnaghten	2	0	0
Dr. Erle Evans	1	0	0
Mrs. W. C. Braithwaite	1	0	0
Mrs. A. E. Winterne		5	0
Mrs. Buckton	1	1	0
Miss Annie E. Clark	1	1	0
Mrs. T. F. Walker	5	1	0
Miss Sarah Booth		5	0
Mrs. Geo. Bromet		5	0
Dr. Grace Gulston Griffith		5	0
Mrs. F. Pennington	5	0	0
Mrs. Eric Carter	1	1	0
The Misses Carryer		10	0
Miss Ruth Speakman		2	6
Dr. Mabel Ramsay	1	0	0
The Misses Snow		7	6
Mrs. Margaret Evershed	2	2	0
Miss Emma Newbigin		10	0
Miss M. H. Dodds	1	0	0
Mrs. Auerbach	1	0	0
Miss Lily Coats	50	0	0
Miss Alice Johnson		10	0
Mrs. Russell Rea	5	0	0
The Misses Pertz	2	0	0
Lady Wilson	2	2	0
Miss Howard	2	2	0
Miss C. Lovibond	1	1	0
Mrs. Aukland	1	1	0
Lady Moncrieff-Scott	1	0	0
Miss F. M. Kirby		10	0
Miss Beddow		10	0
Mrs. Hicks		10	0
Miss C. Spicer	1	0	0
Miss Joyner		5	0
Mrs. Annette Iliffe	10	10	0
Mrs. Ford Smith	1	0	0
Miss Montgomery	2	0	0
Mrs. W. H. Patterson		5	0
Mrs. S. M. Robinson	2	0	0
Miss E. D. Nicholson		10	0
Miss Josephine Brown		10	0
Mrs. Edward Browne	1	1	0
Mrs. T. J. Macnamara	1	1	0
Mrs. and Miss Spens		12	6
Miss B. A. Holme		10	0
Mrs. Maria Oliver	1	0	0
Mrs. G. H. Ellis	1	0	0
Mrs. Ronald Hepburn		5	0
Mrs. Blake Odgers		10	0
The Misses E. and A. Keery		3	0
Mrs. Constance Notcutt	1	0	0
Mrs. L. A. Littleboy	5	0	0
Miss E. J. Deane		5	0
Mrs. K. E. Mills-Cobbold	1	0	0
Miss F. M. Lancaster	5	5	0
Dr. C. M. Murrell	1	1	0
Miss Marion E. Smith	1	1	0
Miss E. C. Lyon	1	1	0
Miss Mary Morison		10	0
Mrs. Mary Higgs		5	0
Miss L. Hutchinson		2	6
Mrs. Knowles	1	0	0
Mrs. Alfred Haworth		10	0
Miss M. M. Sharpe	1	1	0
Mrs. A. G. Pollock	1	1	0
Mrs. Slack	1	0	0
Mrs. Appleton		10	0
Mrs. Tennant		5	0
Mrs. J. Hall		2	6
Staff and Students St. Hugh's College	1	12	6
	£257	13	0

WOMEN M.P.'s.

The following are among the most important women candidates standing at the General Election:—

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Rusholme Division, Manchester (I.L.P.).
Miss Mary Macarthur, Stourbridge (Labour).
Miss Violet Markham, Mansfield Division, Derby (Liberal).
Mrs. How Martyn, Hendon (Independent).
Miss Eunice Murray, Bridgeton Division, Glasgow (Independent).
Mrs. Janet McEwan, Enfield (Liberal).
Miss Dacre Fox, Richmond (Independent).
Miss Nina Boyle, Keighley (Independent).
Miss Ogilvie Gordon, Farnham (Coalition).

Women's Freedom League.

The following are the names of women who are, we understand, willing to offer themselves as candidates but whose constituencies are not yet decided. We hope to be able to publish a more final list next week.

Miss Farquharson.
Miss Phipps, B.A. (National Federation of Teachers).
Lady Frances Balfour (Member of N.U.W.S.S. Executive Committee).
Miss Chrystal Macmillan (Member of N.U.W.S.S. Executive).
Mrs. Corbett Ashby (Member of N.U.W.S.S., Women's Liberal Federation).
Lady Spicer.
Miss Eleanor Rathbone (Liverpool Councillor, Member of N.U.W.S.S. Executive).

News from Societies.

SCARBOROUGH.—The Society was greatly encouraged and helped in September by a visit from Miss R. Hartop, N.U.W.S.S. organiser. Miss Hartop addressed the Committee, and subsequently the members of the Society, on the new programme. As a result it was decided to wait till after the Council at Birmingham before taking any steps towards forming a Women Citizens' Association, which had been the Society's intention.

Miss Hartop also addressed the Theosophical Society, a Woman's Class at the Adult School, the G.M.A.A.C.'s, and a well-attended meeting of teachers, eleven of whom joined the Society.

On October 12th, the Society had the great honour of a visit from Mrs. Fawcett, who, with Mrs. Corbett Ashby, addressed a crowded and enthusiastic audience at the Crown Hotel. Mr. Sevington Savery, M.A., J.P., was an excellent chairman.

The following day several members of the Committee and others, were kindly invited by Mrs. Dutton (Mrs. Fawcett's hostess) to hear the President give an account of the final stages of the Representation of the People Act, 1918. They will not easily forget the privilege of hearing from Mrs. Fawcett's own lips the story of those thrilling moments in the House. This Society has about twenty new members.

LIVERPOOL.—On November 5th the new premises of the society were opened. The speakers were Lady Frances Balfour and Miss Eleanor Rathbone. Mrs. Egerton Hewart-Brown presided.

The Church and National Reconstruction.

THANKOFFERING.

Have you thought about this?

The flush of excitement is passing: what about the future? Continue the fight of right against wrong; fill up the ranks of the Immortals, who died for England, for God and for Truth. Strengthen the forces of Religion by contributing a generous offering to the Church of England Central Fund.
You ask at once, as everyone must ask,

How much is wanted?

FIVE MILLION POUNDS.

Why is it wanted?

Because the Church of England must be made strong to do her work.

What laymen are supporting this? Listen to the reply.

All wise and far-seeing men are backing this appeal.
Those who are immediately concerned are:—

Lord Brassey, Chairman of Finance Committee.
Lord Grey, Chairman of the Northern Committee.
Sir Trustram Eve, Chairman of the Organisation Committee.

The Appeal is supported, amongst others, by members of the House of Lords, like the Lord Chancellor of England, Lord Salisbury, and Lord Selborne; by members of the House of Commons, like—
Sir A. Griffith Boscawen, Sir Robert Williams, and Lord Wolmer;
by well-known Labour men, like Mr. Joe Harris and Mr. H. E. Kemp;
by Sailors, like Admiral Lord Jellicoe and Admiral Sir Michael Culme-Seymour;
by Soldiers, like General Sir Wm. Robertson and General Lord Shaftesbury;
by City men, like Sir Robert Kindersley, Lord Aldenham, and the Rt. Hon. F. Huth Jackson.

Cheques should be made payable to the Church of England Central Fund and sent to

—Canon F. Partridge, Sanctuary House,
33, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Gifts may be made if preferred in the form of National War bonds or stock and may be spread over a series of years. Contributions can be ear marked for any particular one of the objects of the fund.

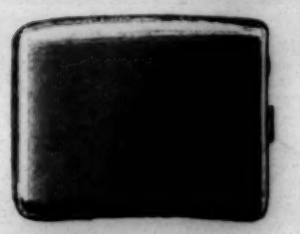
Peter Robinson's

Xmas Gift Suggestions

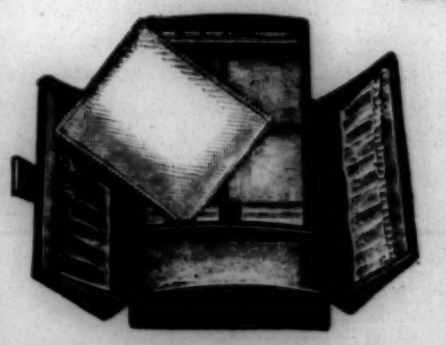
CHILDREN'S HANDKERCHIEFS with coloured embroidered corner, subject "Dick Whittington." A box of six, **6/11**

Dainty EVENING SLIP in Crepe-de-Chine; trimmed Filet lace and floral ornament on shoulders In ivory, sky, pink and mauve **18/11**

Dainty SLIP-THROUGH TIE, in real Ermine; trimmed real tails ... **7½ Gns.**



Silver-plated Concave CIGARETTE CASE (exceptional value) ... **5/6**



Useful Leather JEWEL CASE, size 8 inches by 6 inches. In navy, green and purple **23/6**

Ingersoll RADIOLITE WATCH. In Xylonite case complete **17/6**

OUR GRAND XMAS BAZAAR

"JUNGLE LAND"

is now in full swing

Peter Robinson Ld. Oxford St. W 1

BARNSLEY. — A public meeting was held in the Arcade Hall on October 29th. Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher spoke on "The New Responsibilities of Women." It was a delightful address, and the audience appreciated it immensely. A collection was taken and realised £4 5s. 8d. Donations amounted to £5 0s. 6d. Literature was distributed, four dozen Common Causes sold, and sixteen new members enrolled. The expenses of the meeting were defrayed by the society and £10 sent to Headquarters Fund.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

The Committee urgently appeal for special donations to supply food and clothing for the starving and destitute Serbs. Their homes are ruined and their country laid waste. It is of the utmost importance that help should be forthcoming before the winter sets in. A cable message asking for this assistance has been received from the administrator of the America Unit, of whose safe arrival at Vranje the committee have been informed during the past week.

Donations for this purpose should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, at Headquarters, 2, St. Andrew Square. The Equipment Secretary, at the same address, will gratefully receive gifts of new clothing, which will be sent out to Serbia as quickly as possible.

Miss Jack has begun work at the new canteen at Favresse. She writes that very large numbers of men are passing through daily, sometimes as many as 12,000 in one day. The usefulness of the large Foyer is greatly lessened, however, by the lack of amusements for the soldiers. They have literally nothing to do but just sit about. Gifts of draughts, dominoes, or cards, but especially draughts are asked for. These also should be sent to the Equipment Secretary at Headquarters.

The work of the hospitals must go on for many months, and it is earnestly hoped that there will be no slackening in the support given to the committee during the last four strenuous years. The men now in hospital must be brought to the stage of convalescence before they can be discharged, and many of the cases may be tedious. The Serbs look to the Scottish Women's Hospitals to help and sustain them now as they did in the past. The return to their own country, though a matter for deepest thanksgiving, has in too many cases elements also of the most poignant tragedy.

LONDON UNITS: ELSIE INGLIS LONDON MEMORIAL FUND.

Lady Selborne, Joint Hon. Treasurer of the Elsie Inglis London Memorial Fund, has pleasure in announcing that Lord and Lady Cowdray have made up their gift to this fund to the sum of £10,000 in the hope that as large an amount as possible will be collected for the reconstituted University of Belgrade, in memory of the splendid work of Dr. Elsie Inglis, the founder of the Scottish Women's Hospitals. Contributions should be sent to the Joint Hon. Treasurers of the fund, at 66, Victoria Street, S.W. 1.

AMERICAN Y.W.C.A. MORALITY CONFERENCE.

A Social Morality Conference was held in New York last month at which a large number of influential people were present, and also representatives of various societies. Mme. Avril de St. Croix represents France upon the inter-allied committee appointed by the Conference; Miss Picton Turbervill, O.B.E., represents England, and Mr. Abram Flexner (author of *Prostitution in Europe*) America. It is hoped that the Committee will become International.

The Conference declared itself in favour of the following principles:—

(1) That the single standard of morals should prevail for men and women.

(2) That continence is compatible with health and intellectual vigour for both sexes.

(3) That men and women should serve together, whenever possible, on bodies whose functions concern the development and enforcement of moral standards.

(4) That prostitutes be not treated as a class apart from other women, and that prostitution be not recognised as a trade.

(5) That all measures either preventive or repressive concerned with Social Morality apply impartially to men and women.

(6) That a simultaneous vigorous attack on venereal disease should be made, and that the issues of public health and morals should be thoroughly co-related.

(7) That sex education be incorporated in one entire educational system in homes, school, college and the church and press.

(8) That social and economic adjustments granting to the individual decent living conditions, and adequate recreation are essential to progress in social Morality. These adjustments concern especially:

(*a*) Housing conditions.
(*b*) Industrial conditions, including conditions of work and wages.
(*c*) Proper and sufficient recreational opportunities.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE UNMARRIED MOTHER AND HER CHILD.

On Tuesday, November 12th, Mr. Brace, Under Secretary of State, received a deputation from the N.C.U.M.C. The deputation was introduced by Sir Melvill Beachcroft, who pointed out that the Council consisted of representatives of fifty-one Public Authorities, of representatives of forty-nine National Voluntary and other Organisations, and of a number of distinguished individuals, who had become associated in this work owing to the great and urgent necessity of ameliorating the position of the unmarried mother and her child. He pointed out that the aims of the Council were twofold—namely, to bring about reforms in existing legislation, and to secure the provision of adequate accommodation for the unmarried mother and her child throughout the country.

Mr. Newton Crane, M.A., Barrister-at-Law, then spoke, explaining the seven Legal Recommendations of the Council. He said that it should be made easier for an expectant mother to take proceedings against the father, and that she should be heard in camera, as it is a known thing that the best type of girl shrinks from publicity.

He urged that there should be no fixed limit to the weekly payment,

but that it should be at the discretion of the Magistrate, and that failing enforcement of payment by fathers, the State should make provision, the onus of proving paternity thus falling on the State rather than on the mother.

Mrs. Baker of the Standing Joint Committee of Industrial Women's Organisations spoke from the point of view of Labour, and said that working women were very anxious to see a reform in the position of the unmarried mother and her child. She said that all the branches of the Women's Co-operative Guild throughout the country had passed unanimous resolutions supporting the aims of the National Council, and that many branches of the Railway Women's Guild had expressed themselves equally in accordance with these aims. She also emphasised the point that even if the existing alimony were doubled, it merely meant an adherence to the same standards, in view of the increase of prices, and that it was absolutely essential for the welfare of the mother, that the alimony paid should be in accordance with the financial position of the father.

Mr. Brace thanked the deputation for the frank and clear way in which they had stated their case, and assured them that the matter should receive the most careful consideration.

EIGHTH YEAR OF THE ENGLISHWOMAN EXHIBITION.

The Englishwoman Exhibition was opened by the Duchess of Sutherland on Wednesday, November 13th, in auspicious circumstances, and with a feeling of joy in the air.

The Lady Frances Balfour, in an amusing speech, said that as a Scot she must begin by making her accustomed protest against the name "Englishwoman," which she thought ought to be "Britishwoman," but she added, "we have come here to rejoice in the work of that England of whom we are all proud to be a part." She then spoke of the work of English craftswomen during the war, of the gallant way in which it had been maintained in the face of all difficulties, and of the help which had been given by the yearly exhibitions of *the Englishwoman* and especially by the untiring and brilliant organisation work carried on by Miss Lowndes.

Miss Lowndes, who was warmly received by the gathering, said that although we met in a happy hour, we must not forget that anxious effort was still required from those who cared for the future of their Country. England had come out of the war a poor nation, as was inevitable, since she had not only poured out her energies in the great struggle, but had had to give help and support to her allies who were in greater straits than herself. But there was no need that the Country should remain poor; that would only be so if a lot of people were idle and unwilling to make the fresh effort required. A nation was indeed poor, if it had lost the love of beauty for its own sake. England had not done this, and need not do so. The work of the exhibitors in this exhibition, and the help that the exhibition had given year after year through the difficulties of war was one of the efforts that had been made to keep beauty alive. Women would go on now with a good heart, and she had no fears for the future of English craftsmanship.

The Duchess of Sutherland expressed her great sympathy with the work of the craftswomen, and with their gallant efforts in the face of difficulties. She earnestly wished them success in the future, and with great pleasure declared the exhibition open.

Some of the visitors who proceeded to go round the many beautiful stalls of the exhibition felt that although the national character of the work displayed had been insisted upon, it was at times quite easy to imagine that one had wandered into one of the Arabian Nights. The story in which three princes set forth to find wonderful gifts for their father, and visited the bazaars in the chief cities of India, China, and Persia with surprising results, is perhaps the one that specially occurred to one. This was probably due to the delightful colours in which the exhibition abounds. Hand-woven materials in purple, orange, crimson, and lapis lazuli blue might well have come straight from the East, although we know that as a matter of fact they are made by English girls. If one of the presents demanded by the king in the story had been a little dog (as it was in one of the European renderings of the tale), a very suitable one might have been found among the dogs on the woollen animals stall, which are surely among the smallest and most expressive of their kind; had a princess been sought for, she might have been found on the dolls' stall, though probably in Early Victorian costume. All those who are seeking for a wonderful present now, must visit the exhibition. They will find all kinds of delightful things: enamels, jewellery, toys, laces, beautiful pottery, scarves, children's clothes, calendars, books; in fact, innumerable useful and beautiful things, all made by British craftswomen, and therefore of double worth.

CONFERENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL INDUSTRIES AT BARNETT HOUSE (OXFORD).

At the above Conference, in October, the Chairman, Lord Henry Bentinck, in pointing to the great artistic feeling of Rural Industries, deplored their loss, which was caused by the Industrial Revolution, and the huge aggregation of people driven from the land to ill-disciplined and ill-thought-out cities. It was a fallacy to regard as insoluble the problem of scattering industries once more over the country in a more helpful manner.

Miss May Morris referred to the work done by the Arts and Crafts Society in arresting the decay of handicrafts in England, and claimed that artists had proved themselves practical people, capable of overcoming difficulties. The time was passing when an over-crowded city and an empty village had formed a fact of our civilisation, but excessive immigration to towns would cease as country districts became more self-supporting and more alive. It should be part of a scheme of national reconstruction to restart handicraft, for formerly villages went on two legs, in agriculture and home industries, but now they went lame. Apart from bread and jam making, basket work, spinning, weaving, metal work, and communal Church embroidery were suggested. She praised the Women's Institutes and Women's Agricultural Committees in reviving local crafts. In referring to Disabled Soldiers, she spoke of the great opportunity created by the mournful leisure of convalescence and the healing power of handicraft when taught systematically. Miss Morris summed up by expressing her firm belief in the revival of rural industries; the art of England had long lain dormant, but the capacity was there, and would blossom and flourish again to enhance the love of country which had been so keenly aroused.

Mrs. Nugent Harris, speaking for the Federation of Women's Institutes, showed how village women are organising themselves for the practical solution of the problems touched upon by Miss May Morris.

A very interesting discussion followed, and the meeting ended by passing a resolution to form a Society of Rural Industries (with Miss K. S. Woods as Secretary), centred in Oxford, to work out a scheme for providing and marketing village products.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S)

NOVEMBER 25.

Birmingham—Medical Theatre, University—Some Government Departments and their Functions—Speaker: Mrs. Ring 5.30 p.m.

Coming Events.

NOVEMBER 15-23.

Central Hall, Westminster — "The Englishwoman" Exhibition of Arts and Handicrafts Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

NOVEMBER 22.

Oxford Street—College of Ambulance, 3, Vere street—Meeting to consider the influence on the Nation of a Ministry of Health—Speaker: C. W. Saleeby, M.D., F.R.S. (Edin.)—Subject: "What a Ministry of Health can do for (a) The Babies of the Nation, (b) The Children of the Nation, (c) The Workers of the Nation" 2.30 p.m

NOVEMBER 25.

Harley Street—Institute of Hygiene, 33-34, Devonshire Place—Under the direction of the Women's Municipal Party, the first of three Lectures will be given by Dr. King Brown, M.O.H.—Subject: "Public Health"—Admission Free 5.30 p.m

NOVEMBER 28.

Caxton Hall, Westminster—Annual Meeting—Penal Reform League — Speaker: Miss Shaw (Warden Women's Training Colony)—Chairman: The Duchess of Marlborough—Hon. Sec. will read Annual Report and make a statement—Business Meeting 7 p.m. 7.30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 29.

Westminster—25, Tothill Street—Public Conference on "International Labour Legislation"—Chairman: Mr. G. H. Stuart-Browning—Speakers: M. Camille Huysmans, Miss Sophie Sanger, Mr. Fred Bramley 3 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MISS MAUDE ROYDEN preaches in the City Temple, Holborn Viaduct, next Sunday, at the 11 a.m. Service. (The work of the Y.W.C.A.)

THE WOMEN'S MUNICIPAL PARTY.

SALE OF BOOKS (Old and New), at 15, Devonshire-st., Portland-pl., W. 1 (by kind permission of Lady Pearson), in aid of the funds of the Women's Municipal Party, Thursday, December 5th, 12.0—7.0 The Sale will be opened by the Duchess of Marlborough at 12.0. The Committee beg you to send donations of books, new or slightly used, and sincerely hope you will also come and buy. Books to be sent to—Miss Place, 62, Oxford-st., W. 1.

BRITISH WOMEN'S EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION.

INFORMATION and Advice, GRATIS, to Women and Girls of all Classes, Professional, Business, and Domestic. Escort provided for Children and others going to Friends or Situations. Teachers needed for Government Schools Overseas. "The Imperial Colonist," monthly, 2d., 2s. 6d. per annum, post free, gives practical information to intending Colonists.—Apply Miss LEFROY, Hon. Sec., The Imperial Institute, South Kensington, London, S.W. 7.

[We regret that owing to lack of space we are reluctantly compelled to hold over the remaining Miscellaneous Advertisements till next week.]

S. F. GOSS Ltd. Scientific Chemists

Beg to draw your attention to the revised prices of a few of their world renowned toilet preparations:—

GOSS' OATMEAL SKIN FOOD

A perfect cream for the complexion.

Tubes 1s. 9d.
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440, OXFORD STREET, W.1 or 134, KENSINGTON HIGH STREET, W.8.

"Clubs and Huts have come to stay, they'll last longer ——— than the War."

The Need for More Y.W.C.A. Huts.

The Y.W.C.A. is wanted wherever there are women workers—and there are women workers everywhere. After the War Huts and Clubs will be required for many a long day.

The girls themselves, wherever they go, have learned to expect a Y.W.C.A. Hut—it is their little home from home, and they love it.

And for this reason they feel something of dismay when they go into a town and look in vain for the welcome sign. They wonder why it is missing. They assume that you in your own home do not *know* that they are without a Y.W.C.A. Club. Many girls still look for that Hut and do not find it! Are you one of those at home who did not know and have not helped to provide one? Will you send a cheque now?

In Peace as in War

Not only does the Y.W.C.A. provide recreation Huts and Clubs for the Women's Services, but also food, recreation and housing for other workers. The girls have needed the Y.W.C.A. during the War; they also need it in the difficult days which lie ahead. The great work of the Y.W.C.A. will never be abandoned. It is a power in the land for all time.

It is for this work, that affects a large proportion of the womanhood of the Nation, that the Y.W.C.A. asks your assistance.

Y.W.C.A.

Send your cheque to-day for the London Appeal Campaign to Hon. Treas., The Viscount Hambleden, 19, Arlington Street, S.W.1.

National Treasurer, The Lord Sydenham of Combe, 26, George St., Hanover Sq., W.1.

Women Wartime Workers' Fund, Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.

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